

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-4 are currently pending. Claims 1 and 3 are independent. Claims 1 and 3 are hereby amended. No new matter has been introduced. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed, specifically on pages 32-33. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Japanese Patent No. JP10248048 to Yamamoto (hereinafter, merely “Yamamoto”) in view of Japanese Patent No. JP09330552 to Miyawaki (hereinafter, merely “Miyawaki”).

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“a virtual file generating means for generating at least three files, said at least three files comprising:

a first virtual file describing a first recording area including at least one continuous sub-area of said first material

data on said recording medium on the basis of the first piece of editing information generated by said first editing means,

a second virtual file describing a second recording area including at least one continuous sub-area of said second material data on said recording medium on the basis of the second piece of editing information generated by said second piece of editing information, and

a third virtual file describing a third recording area including at least one continuous sub-area of said video-effect-processed data on said recording medium; and

a reproduction control means for control said recording/reproduction means so as to reproduce the first material data, the second material data and the video-effect-processed data recorded on said recording medium on the basis of the first virtual file, the second virtual file and the third virtual file generated by said virtual file generating means.” (emphasis added)

Yamamoto relates to editing wherein only partial video signals for the setting of editing points are transferred to a working memory to enable the result of editing to be previewed. In other words, only data that are near in-point and out-points are used for processing by a personal computer. Yamamoto is applied to a simple editing system that uses an information processing apparatus, such as the personal computer. Yamamoto makes possible execution of various aspects of editing in a simple configuration by using a hard disk.

Miyawaki relates to an editing system that has a plurality of hard disk units arranged in parallel and operated to record/reproduce a video signal to be capable of recovering abnormal data without any interruption with the operations for recording/reproducing continuous data. The operations of a plurality of data recording/reproducing blocks are managed in time by a time slot to use a blank time slot if an abnormal condition appears in one block to recover abnormal data with data recorded on another block.

Combining Yamamoto and Miyawaki will yeild at most two files. First, the

editing list stored in a single file that includes all the editing points in Yamamoto(see Fig. 15).

Second, the defect processing list in Miyawaki (see Fig. 16).

Applicants respectfully submit that neither Yamamoto, nor Miyawaki, individually or in combination, teach or suggest a virtual file generating means for generating at least three files, said at least three files comprising: a first virtual file describing a first recording area including at least one continuous sub-area of said first material data on said recording medium on the basis of the first piece of editing information generated by said first editing means, a second virtual file describing a second recording area including at least one continuous sub-area of said second material data on said recording medium on the basis of the second piece of editing information generated by said second piece of editing information, and a third virtual file describing a third recording area including at least one continuous sub-area of said video-effect-processed data on said recording medium; and a reproduction control means for control said recording/reproduction means so as to reproduce the first material data, the second material data and the video-effect-processed data recorded on said recording medium on the basis of the first virtual file, the second virtual file and the third virtual file generated by said virtual file generating means; all as recited in claim 1.

Furthermore, Yamamoto and Miyawaki are not combinable in that Yamamoto discloses the editing apparatus or method wherein only partial video signals (which necessarily means not all signals) for the setting of editing points are transferred to working memory to enable the editing result to be previewed. In other words, only data that are near in-points and out-points are used for processing by a personal computer. Whereas, on the other hand, Miyawaki discloses a video signal capable of recovering abnormal data and the use of a blank time slot if an abnormal condition appears in one block to recover abnormal data with data

recorded on another block. Therefore, combining Yamamoto and Miyawaki necessarily means that only partial video signals (that is not all signals) are subjected to Miyawaki's recovering of abnormal data.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to independent claim 1, independent claim 3 is also believed to be patentable.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

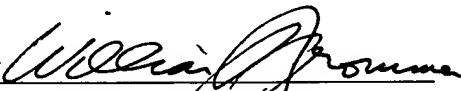
Claims submitted by the instant document are in condition for allowance. In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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